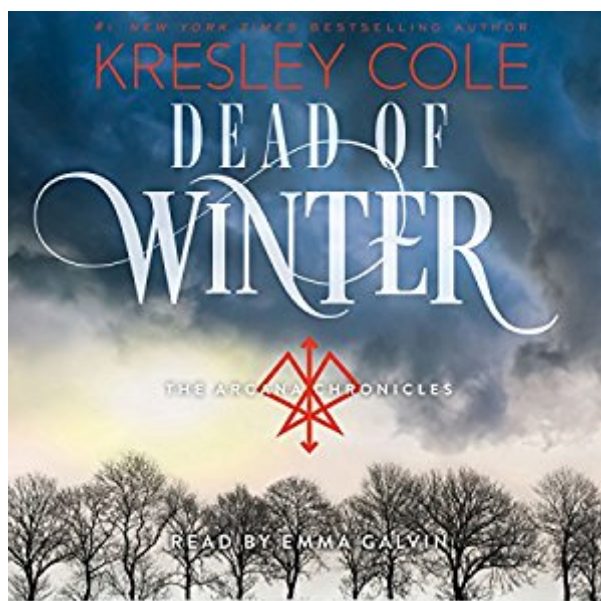


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Dead Of Winter: Arcana Chronicles, Book 3



Synopsis

Can Evie convince her rival loves to work together? Their survival depends on it in this third book of number one New York Times best-selling author Kresley Cole's Arcana Chronicles, a nonstop action tale of rescue, redemption, and a revenge most wicked. Heartbreaking decisions: Evie was almost seduced by the life of comfort that Death offered her - until Jack was threatened by two of the most horrific Arcana, The Lovers. She will do anything to save him, even escape Death's uncanny prison, full of beautiful objects, material comforts... and stolen glances from a former love. Uncertain victory: Despite leaving a part of her heart behind with Death, Evie sets out into a frozen and perilous post-apocalyptic wasteland to meet up with her allies and launch an attack on The Lovers and the vast army they command. Such formidable enemies require a battle plan, and the only way to kill them once and for all may mean Evie, Jack, and Death allying. Evie doesn't know what will prove more impossible: surviving slavers, plague, Bagmen and other Arcana - or convincing Jack and Death to work together. Two heroes returned: There's a thin line between love and hate, and Evie just doesn't know where she stands with either Jack or Death. Will this unlikely trio be able to defeat The Lovers without killing one another first?

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours 58 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 6, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00RC66OJ6

Best Sellers Rank: #44 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Greek & Roman #142 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings #292 in Books > Teens > Romance > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

I'm not going to lie...I don't recall ever waiting this breathlessly and anxiously for any book to arrive. I'm the type of person who would much rather wait for the whole series to finish before beginning it, mostly because I get really invested in the characters and in their story lines and care so much

about their fates. (The ending matters, people!!!) But this time, in preparation for the third installment, I have been re-reading Poison Princess and Endless Knight for months, looking for clues and hoping I could successfully predict what would happen to my beloved characters. I would browse blogs and believe it or not, even study Tarot cards just to get a possible glimpse of the future. I also braced myself because I was 100% positive that the ending would have a cliffhanger almost as bad as the second one. And I have to say, I was not mistaken. In fact, I'm still asking myself what the heck just happened. In *Dead of Winter*, we see Evie escaping Death's fortress so she could launch a campaign to save Jack from the Lovers. Apparently, only with Evie in the mix can Jack be saved from the evil twins. Death also involves himself because as we know from the previous book, he considers Evie as his to protect. So the whole book spans roughly around a week or two of their lives and is mostly dealing with the question of how to defeat the Lovers and who would Evie pick: Jack or Aric. To be perfectly honest, I have been team Jack since the very beginning. Never did I really waver from my belief that Evie and Jack belonged together, and I felt that Ms. Cole shared this sentiment. In this book, we see Jack as we knew him from before: brave, brash, intelligent, fearless, reckless, cunning and caring...but he has become more now. He has become a leader of men, a beacon of hope in such bleak times. In a way, he has come on his own and it was inspiring but not really that surprising to see. To me though, the biggest reveal has been how Aric is...Aric has always been this strong, fierce knight and yet, he appears so contemplative, wise and restrained...so honest and loving. He was so patient and gentle with Evie. He showed his devotion to her with every step he makes...So much so that even I who doubted his intentions, came to question my own thought process. Perhaps that's what Ms. Cole was aiming for....I'm by no means fickle but I could almost swear that Evie chose wrong..? In a way, I want to warn readers who are not as invested as I am to wait before reading this because the cliffhanger ending is horrible and something others would not go for...at least not 2 in a row...but perhaps that is the secret to success in a series like this. I could have sworn that the unactivated card would be revealed and he would be who I thought he would be...but instead we get introduced to another Major Arcana card, one who has destroyed Evie in the past. So what's my verdict for this one? Truly I'm giving a biased rating because I love this series so much. The whole time I was reading, my heart was pounding! I'm truly invested in Evie, Jack, Aric, Matthew, and even Finn, Selena, Lark, Gabe, Tess and Joules...Ms. Cole has made a fabulous, crazy, fantastic roller coaster of a series that, even though sets me up for a terribly long and uncertain wait for the next installment, still has me enthralled. This series is truly a thorn in my paw...but as a testament to Ms. Cole's skill and imagination, I'm still all in, peekon!

My goodness, Kresley Cole is going to kill me with feels one of these days. Before you go forward with my review, be sure to check out my reviews of the first two installments, Poison Princess and Endless Knight. So Dead of Winter picks up a few days after the end of Endless Knight, with Evie wandering around and following the other Arcana calls so she can find everyone in order to rally the troops to rescue Jack. Now, after Jack's behavior and incessant lying over the last two novels, I was particularly irritated with her desire to still be with him romantically. Especially after Evie was finally being treated with love and respect by Death (Aric), although he made a very questionable decision at the end of Endless Knight as well. While the last novel really cultivated Aric's character and his past and present relationship with Evie, this one does focus a little bit more on the "games" going on between the Arcana and we are introduced to the High Priestess and the Lovers, officially. Not going to lie, no matter how youthful Cole described Circe as, I just kept imagining Ursula from the Little Mermaid as speaking to Evie. (Whoops) The lovers were delightfully creepy, and their absolute adoration of torture and pain was just a really good way to make them distinctly evil, especially after Death (who started off as an enemy) as been so wholly redeemed throughout the other two novels. Evie has really grown into herself and finally begins to gain more control over her powers, in the sense that they are no longer reliant specifically on the sun or on fertile Earth. But while there is definitely a good amount of action in this installment of the Arcana Chronicles, there is still a large part of the narrative that is focused on the love triangle that is going on between Jack-Evie-Aric (Death). Typically, I really do not enjoy love triangles because they are just such an overused trope in young adult literature. However, since Evie seemed to really be divided between both Jack and Aric, it makes that aspect of the story much more fulfilling. Although, I'm firmly on Aric's side of the love triangle, waving my hands and stamping my feet wanting Evie to pick him. Now, this part may be a BIT spoilery: But I've read some reviews that are picking up on the possibility of Jack being part of the Arcana as well. Someone speculated that he could possibly be one of the four cards that haven't appeared in the series yet: The Chariot, The Hanged Man, The Wheel of Fortune, or The Sun. Specifically I've noted that The Hanged Man is a popular speculation for his character. While it would be cool for Jack to be part of the Arcana, I don't understand how he couldn't have been "activated" at this point in the story, but if that comes to pass, I'm sure that Cole would provide a worthy explanation. Either way, Dead of Winter gets 4.5 Bards. Evie + Death forever. More reviews posted at www.amidsummernightsread.com

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